

NOTES AND EXTRACTS.

[From *Nature*, February 27th, 1879.]

"A new society has been created at Paris for aeronautics. It is styled 'Académie d'Ascensions Météorologiques,' and a museum is being fitted up and will be opened in March for public inspection. It contains all the apparatus devised for constructing or directing balloons, or taking meteorological observations in the air."

[From the *Popular Science Monthly*.]

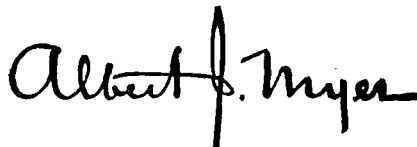
"In London the seven weeks ending January 18th, 1879, was a period of very low temperature, and the Registrar General, in his reports, institutes a comparison between the mortality of those seven weeks and the seven weeks immediately preceding them. The result shows that the average weekly number of deaths in the cold period exceeded by 481 the average number in the period of moderate temperature, the annual rates of mortality being equal to 26.8 and 19.8 per 1,000, respectively. Among persons under twenty years of age the increased mortality due to cold did not exceed 2.8 per 1,000 living, and the excess between twenty and forty was only 1.3 per 1,000; between forty and sixty years the excess was 8.7 per 1,000; between sixty and eighty it was 54.4, and among persons over eighty years of age the excess was equal to 173.0 per 1,000 per year."

[From *Nature*, March 6th, 1879.]

"From the third annual Report of the Forest Meteorological Stations of Germany, being the report for 1877, we learn that this system of inquiry into the influence of forests on weather and climate now includes fourteen stations scattered over a region extending over 7° of latitude and 5° of longitude, the stations being at heights ranging from 10 to 3,051 feet above the sea. The instruments and observations have been planned on satisfactory and comprehensive principles, and in a few years results eminently *ad rem* may be looked for. In the meantime the thermometric observations point to highly important results. Each station has three sets of thermometers for air temperature, similarly protected—one set in the wood, the second set high up in the crown of a tree, and the third set in an open space outside the wood, while earth thermometers are placed both in the open and in the wood, on the surface of the ground, and at depths of 6, 12, 24, 36 and 48 inches. The results show in every case a lower air temperature inside the wood as compared with the open country outside, the mean difference amounting to 1°.3. As regards the temperature of the surface of the ground, the mean deficiency in the wood shaded by the trees is 2°.5, an amount which gradually diminishes with the depth to 2°.0 at 48 inches, the lowest depth observed. It would be a problem of great interest to ascertain how deep this cooling of the earth's surface extends when it is screened by trees from solar and terrestrial radiation."

"The meteorological observations made at the Hydrographic Office at Pola during 1878 have been issued, with a full abstract for the year, showing the hourly means of pressure, temperature, and wind-velocity. The most prevalent winds by far are from the quarter of the compass from east-north-east to south-east, these comprising nearly half the winds of the whole year, to which there is to be added a small secondary maximum of west-north-west winds. The wind falls to its daily minimum velocity at 5 to 6 a. m., and rises to the maximum so early as noon, hours all but coincident with the daily maximum and minimum temperature. From the three years observations now available from Pola, it is seen that in common with sea-side stations of the middle and higher latitudes, the a. m., maximum of pressure occurs later in winter than in summer, in contradiction to inland places where it occurs much earlier. Pola being in latitude 44° 52' north, and thus within the belt to which Rikatscheff drew attention some time ago, as characterised by the occurrence, or tendency toward the occurrence, of a third maximum of pressure a little after midnight during the cold months of the year, it is interesting to note that four out of the nine individual Decembers, Januarys and Februarys, show the occurrence of this third maximum, which also appears in the general means of December and January for the three years. The amount of this third maximum is very small, and the evidence yet adduced is not sufficient to determine whether it is a real increase of atmospheric pressure, or merely an apparent increase due to undetected instrumental errors."

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